

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the Abstract and claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Also, claims 7-15 have been added. Claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

I. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action at item 1, the Examiner objected to the FIG. 9. In order to overcome this objection, an annotated sheet showing the change made and a replacement sheet are submitted herewith. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to FIG. 9 is respectfully requested.

II. OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT:

In accordance with the foregoing, the Abstract has been amended. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3 AND 5 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH:

As mentioned above, claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5 is respectfully requested.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Examiner asserts that dependent claims 2, 4 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. Thus, reconsideration of claims 2, 4 and 6 based upon the amendments to base independent claims 1, 3 and 5 is respectfully requested.

V. NEW CLAIMS 7-15:

New claims 7-15 include the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in item 4 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action.

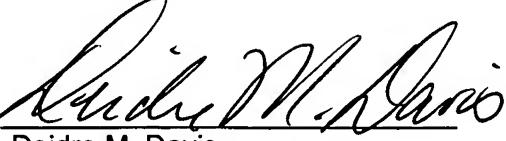
VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

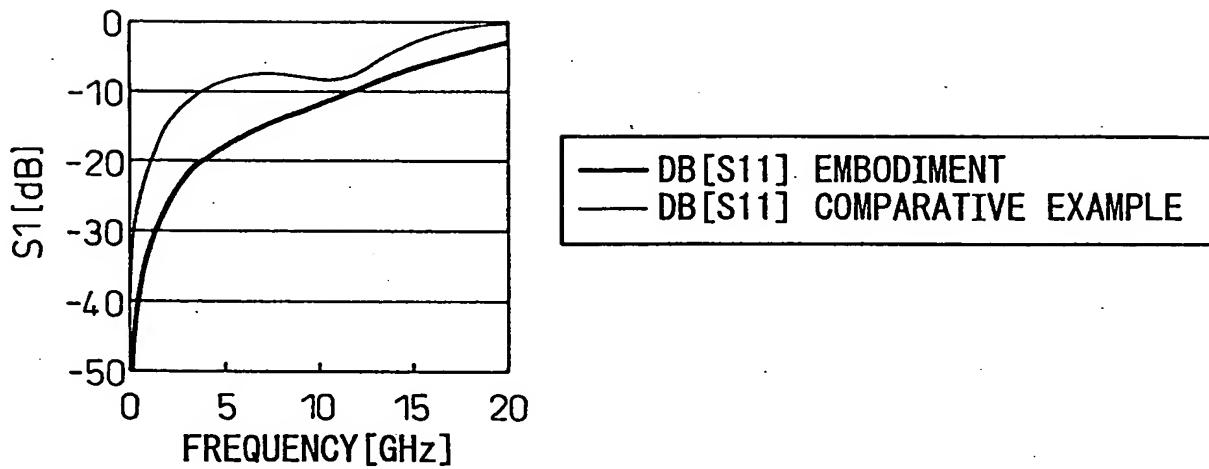
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Fig. 8

Fig. 9
(PRIOR ART)